



## The Olive Tree Communion

[Psalm 52: 8-9]

Jesus said: Love the Lord your God with all your heart. with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: Love your neighbour as you love yourself.

### Hymn

The olive tree has always been associated with the land of Israel. A valuable source of revenue, it was a symbol of the Divine. It represented God in beauty, strength, goodness, peace and joy.

The Mount of Olives, just outside Jerusalem was a place where Jesus often prayed, and in his hour of greatest suffering committed himself to the Father's will - to the way of the Cross.

We come to this place of prayer as to the olive grove to think of God, of his word, his eternal truth and his gracious love.

With the psalmist we say:

*I am like an olive tree growing in the house of God;*

***I trust in his constant love for ever and ever.***

*I will always thank God for what he has done.*

***Lord our God, in the presence of your people we proclaim your goodness.***

Lord, our God we give you thanks. We see tokens of your grace and power in the image of the olive tree. We praise you for your beauty as we see you in every part of your wonderful creation; The olive tree is a source of fuel, food and medicine: We thank you for your provision for all our daily needs even before we ask for them; The olive tree is strong and enduring; we thank you for the strength you give to us in times of weakness and your healing for our sicknesses of mind and body.

Like the twisted branches of the olive tree, we have looked to you and failed to see the sometimes strange working of your love and direction in our lives. Forgive us when we have failed to trust your word and your ways; and learned that your blessing comes like oil through the pain of the olive press. We come to you, our God.

**To worship in this place of prayer.**

In the days of Noah the dove carried the olive branch of peace and hope as flood waters receded. In this place of prayer may we know know the quiet of forgiveness and our lives renewed like broken branches giving way to new. We come to you, our God.

**To worship in this place of prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you meet us in this place as we bring our concerns, anxieties and fears help us to wrestle with the mysteries of faith and life and find peace in surrendering ourselves to the Father's gracious will. We come to you, our God.

**To worship in this place of prayer.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Reading**

**Hymn**

**Reading**

**Sermon**

**Hymn**

## Prayers of Intercession:

### **Our prayers for the Church .....**

Spirit of God

**sweep through your church in grace and power**

### **Our prayers for our land and the world .....**

Spirit of God

**sweep through your world in grace and power**

### **Our prayers for ourselves and other in need .....**

Spirit of God

**sweep through all our lives in grace and power  
Glorify your name in your Church, in our Community,  
and in us. In the name of Jesus. Amen**

## **Offering**

## **Hymn**

## **Our Communion**

The act of Communion was given to us by our Lord as a way of remembering him and of receiving him into our lives - sharing his resurrection life - the life of his Spirit in us. He used the everyday tokens of bread and wine with which we receive sustenance for our bodies as a symbolic expression of our receiving him into our lives together.

*Jesus said: I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread they will live for ever. The wine is the sign of my life blood which seals God's covenant.*

Today we take the bread and wine to say:

***Lord Jesus, come into my life; your Spirit in us.***

The Lord Jesus is Creator, Saviour, Lord.

He came into the world FOR all people:

His Spirit lives in those who believe in him:

He is God with us; God for us. Creator, Saviour, Lord.

He comes to us with the Father's Spirit-gifts -

Love, reconciliation, peace, and eternal life.

**We give thanks to God our Father**

The apostle Paul wrote: *(1 Tim 3.16)*

No one can deny how great is the truth of our faith:

Christ Jesus came in human form; he was shown to be right by the Spirit; he was seen by angels; he was preached among the nations; he was believed in throughout the world he was taken up to heaven

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ; You have given us new life;  
You have made us your holy people.**

On the night before he died to rise to life again Jesus shared bread and wine with his friends and made it an everyday sign by which all who believe in him may remember him and receive him into their lives.

*He took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and said; "This is my body which is for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way after supper he took the cup and said, "This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. When you drink this, remember me."*

Unworthy, but relying on his grace, let us receive him again

**We take you, Lord Jesus**

*[Bread and wine are shared according to the usual custom]*

### **Prayer**

Father, our God, we praise you and we thank you.

You have come to us in Jesus, your Son and through him you have made us one with you. By your Spirit equip us with grace and faith,

**that together with your people we may live and work for your kingdom on earth every day and share in its fulfilment on the final day, when we are one with you in your Glory.**

### **Hymn**

### **Blessing**

*We leave the olive grove of prayer:*

Let us live our day by day lives in the wonder of God our Father in the love of our friend and saviour Jesus; and by the power of the Holy Spirit; One God; Our God.

**God for us, God with us, God in us.**